Ex-Aide to Dodd Admits Passing Data

4/24/66

By Dom Bonafede
Herald Tribune News Service

A former long-time chief assistant to Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) has admitted giving information about the Senator to columnist Jack Anderson.

James P. Boyd, 37, who worked for Dodd for 12 years, the last six asc hief speechwriter and administrative assistant at $23,000 a year, said he went to Anderson with "a monumental story."

Boyd says he also has discussed the case with the FBI and the Senate Ethics Committee, which has been investigating charges by columnists Anderson and Drew Pearson about Dodd's fiances.

Pearson and Anderson have charged that the Senator acted as an "errand boy" and favor-seeker for Julius Klein, a registered agent for West German intereste, and that Dodd had converted some $100,000 received at two testimonial affairs in 1961 and 1963 to his private use.

Almost as sensational as the charges themselves was the speculation as to how Pearson and Anderson obtained so much factual material, including confidential files belonging to Dodd.

One Pearson-Anderson column questioned whether the FBI was more interested in tracking down how they secured the information than in looking into the charge they leveled at Dodd.

Boyd, while admitting in an interview that he has been "cooperating" with Anderson, declined to say whether he had taken any files out of Dodd's office.

"I am willing to testify—in fact, I have asked for the opportunity to testify," Boyd remarked.

He said he voluntarily left Dodd's office in May, 1965, because of disenchantment over the way the Senator handled champaign finances.

"I wanted to right what I thought was a public wrong," he related, "and I felt I had a duty to set it straight since as a staff member I had unwittingly helped the Senator."

He insists he has "not received one penny" for the information.

Dodd's office, however, gives a different version. A spokesman said that on leaving the Senator's employ, Boyd was hired at $15,000 a year by Rep. John A. Blatnik (D-Minn.) upon the recommendation of Anderson to work on a Public Works subcommittee headed by the Congressman.

Anderson readily admits he recommended Boyd to Blatnik.

"This happened long before the developments in the Dodd case," Anderson reported. "It was not a payoff. I had heard that Blatnik needed a speechwriter and I told him Boyd was free."

A short time ago Boyd was suddenly informed that because of an economy wave his services with Public Works subcommittee would not be needed after April 15. The "economy wave" almost exactly equaled his salary.

"Since I was the last on the staff I had to go," Boyd said. "Mr. Blatnik did everything he could to prevent me from losing the job. He was able to arrange an extension for me from April 15 to April 30, for which I'm extremely thankful."

Blatnik said that funds covering Boyds job ran until March and that because of a budget squeeze put on each subcommittee chairman some people had to be let go.

"This was known last January, before the Dodd investigation," he commented.

The man who flew the whistle in the Dodd case was left out in the cold.